This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for indexing minimum coded units (MCUs) in a Joint Photographic Expert Group (JPEG) bit stream on an as needed basis, comprising:

receiving a request for an ith MCU in the bit stream;

determining if the ith MCU precedes a last indexed MCU in the bit stream, wherein the last indexed MCU is a last MCU in the bit stream that has [[its]] a bit offset from a start of the bit stream stored in an index; and

if the ith MCU does not precede the last indexed MCU in the bit stream:

entropy decoding a plurality of the MCUs up to and including the ith MCU in the bit stream, but without going beyond the ith MCU, to determine their corresponding bit offsets from the start of the bit stream; and

indexing the plurality of the MCUs by saving their corresponding bit offsets in the index.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein:

said entropy decoding a plurality of the MCUs up to and including the ith MCU in the bit stream further comprises determining a plurality of DC coefficients of the plurality of the MCUs; and

said indexing the plurality of the MCUs further comprises saving the plurality of DC coefficients in the index.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 7, further comprising:

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if the ith MCU precedes the last indexed MCU in the bit stream:

reading the index to determine [[a]] the bit offset of the ith MCU; and

entropy decoding the ith MCU starting at the bit offset in the bit stream.

Claim 9 to 22 (canceled).